

April 23, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC -U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) issued the following statement in response to today's announcement by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis that the New York City and the Skaneateles Lake watersheds would be exempted from high-volume horizontal natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation:

"I am outraged at the DEC's decision to exclude certain areas from potential hydrofrack drilling for what appears to be no better reason than to protect wealthy landowners and New York City residents. Upstate residents, many of whom rely on unfiltered well water, should not be subjected to public health risks simply because they live in less populated or less wealthy areas. If it's not safe enough for New York City, why is it safe enough for Cortland, Ithaca or Oneonta? All New Yorkers deserve equal protections from potential risks.

"While I support measures to open up energy reserves here at home and create new job opportunities for Upstate families, I also believe that we must carefully examine the potential outcome that natural gas drilling may have on the health of surrounding homes and communities. Natural gas is a tremendous natural resource with great economic potential, but we must move forward in a way that protects an even more vital natural resource - our abundant supply of clean drinking water. I am confident that we can do both."

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